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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A Monthly Report by the NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Prepared in Coordination with the UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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Unemployment 2.3% in October; Monthly Rate Third Lowest in Nation

The unemployment rate in New Hampshire remained in the low-two-percent range in October, dropping slightly to 2.3 percent from the 2.4 percent recorded in September. The decrease in the unemployment rate was the combined result of a rise in the civilian labor force and a drop in the number of unemployed. In fact, estimates of the civilian labor force show an increase of 4,200 over the month, at the same time unemployment decreased by 470. The labor force increased in all areas except the Laconia and Littleton Labor Market Areas, which registered changes of -50 and -70, respectively. Those two areas also experienced slight increases in the number of unemployed, +80 and +90, respectively. The only other area with an increased number of unemployed (+40) was the Portsmouth - Dover - Rochester Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes eight towns in Maine.

Over the past twelve months, the civilian labor force in New Hampshire has risen by 9,380. Unemployment over the same period has increased 1,470. However, the labor force is estimated to be 41,660 larger than in October 1986, while unemployment levels have risen by only 820. The unemployment rate in October was slightly higher than in October 1987 (2.1 percent), but the same as in October 1986.

The September unemployment rate of 2.4 percent in New Hampshire was the third-lowest in the nation. Only Vermont (1.9 percent) and Maine (2.2 percent) registered lower unemployment rates for September. Rhode Island tied with New Hampshire. The New England unemployment rate was estimated at 2.7 percent, with all six states in the region among the eight states with the lowest rates. The highest rate in New England was observed in Massachusetts (3.0 percent), while the highest rates nationwide were found in Louisiana (9.7 percent) and West Virginia (8.5 percent).

The national unemployment situation continues to improve over twelve months earlier. The national not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate fell to 5.0 percent in October, a drop from 5.2 percent in September and from 5.7 percent in October 1987. The United States civilian labor force rose to 122,432,000 persons, up by 590,000 since September and 1,688,000 above the level of twelve months earlier. While the labor force rose, unemployment decreased to 6,182,000, a decline of 186,000 since September and of 663,000 since October 1987.

Nonagricultural Employment Up Slightly Over Month

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment estimates, based on a sample of New Hampshire employers, changed only slightly (+500) from levels pegged for September. All of this change was observed in the manufacturing sector, with 600 additional jobs estimated in the durable goods sector partially offset by a loss of 100 jobs in the nondurable goods sector. Over the past twelve months the manufacturing sector has added an estimated 2,500 jobs, of which 2,150 were in durable goods. The electrical products industry accounted for 1,050 of the durable goods manufacturing increase.

The nonmanufacturing sector exhibited no change in total employment over the month, according to sample-based estimates. However, this masks some large changes in individual nonmanufacturing groups. Construction employment dropped over the month (-1,100), affected by both seasonal trends and a downturn in housing starts. Employment in the services sector also decreased (-1,250), principally due to seasonal influences affecting the lodging and amusement industries. Helping to offset those drops were increases in the trade (+1,600) and government (+1,000) sectors. The increase in trade was concentrated in general merchandise, food, and apparel and accessory retail stores, while the government sector increase was mainly due to continued hiring by local school districts.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment estimates are 23,600 higher than in October 1987. Of these, 2,500 are in manufacturing and 21,100 in nonmanufacturing. In nonmanufacturing, the largest increases were found in services (+6,800) and trade (+6,450).

Unemployment Lower in October than September

October unemployment was estimated to be 14,080 in New Hampshire. This was 470 less than in September, but 1,470 more than a year earlier. However, in late 1987, the unemployment rate was exceptionally low, partially account-

ing for the increase in the number of unemployed over the period.

The Keene Labor Market Area (LMA) registered the lowest area unemployment rate in October (1.4 percent), followed by the Claremont LMA and the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester NH-Me Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (1.5 percent). Highest rates continue to be found in the New Hampshire portions of the Lowell, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA), consisting of Pelham, (5.8 percent) and of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts PMSA, consisting of the Salem area, (4.6 percent). Seven areas experienced a decline in the unemployment rate over the month, two areas registered an increase, and two areas remained unchanged. (For details, please see the table on page 3.) Comparing October 1988 with October 1987 reveals that seven areas show higher unemployment rates, two areas have lower rates, and three areas are unchanged. The largest percentage point increase from twelve months earlier is in the Nashua PMSA (+0.8), while the largest percentage point decrease during that time period is in the Berlin LMA (-0.6).

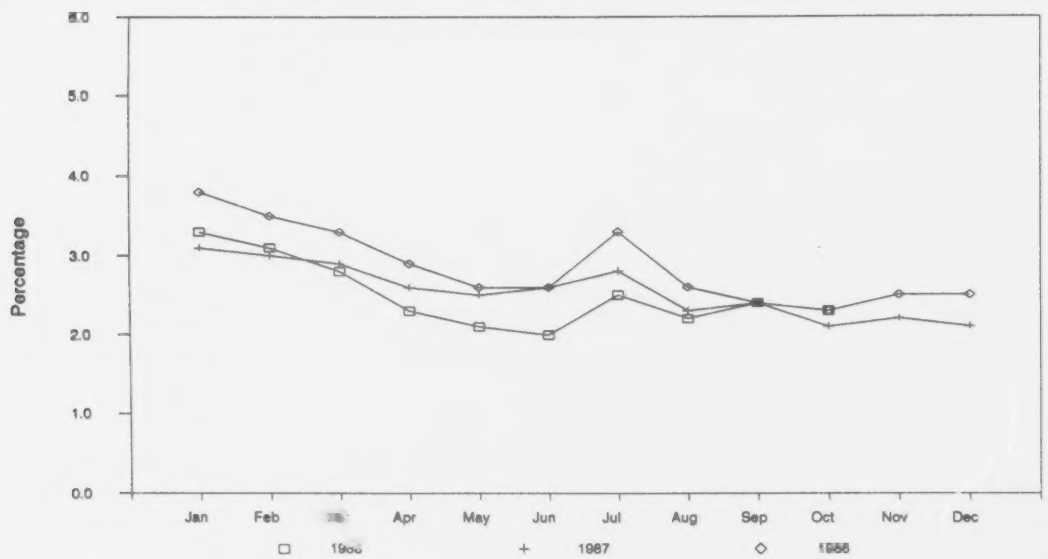
Manufacturing Hours Drop, Hourly Earnings Rise From September to October Average Weekly Earnings Stable

Average hourly earnings in manufacturing, based on a sample of manufacturing firms in New Hampshire, rose to $9.92 in October from $9.77 in September. This was accompanied by a slight drop in average weekly hours, to 39.7 hours weekly from 40.2 hours weekly. The overall result was virtually no change in average weekly earnings, which rose modestly to $393.82 from $392.75.

The highest average hourly earnings were estimated for the Food and Kindred Products industry ($12.45) in the nondurable goods sector, and in the Electrical Products industry ($10.98) in the durable goods sector. Highest average weekly earnings were recorded for the Food and Kindred Products industry ($480.57) in the nondurable goods sector and in the Primary Metal Products industry ($444.06) in the durable goods sector.

Note: Although monthly changes are included in this publication, it should be noted that these figures are not seasonally adjusted. Over-the-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal changes and thus could present misleading representation of underlying trends. To eliminate bias, it is more useful to compare any non-seasonally-adjusted statistic with that of twelve months earlier.

New Hampshire Unemployment Rate



TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE BY AREA AND COUNTY

	UNEMPLOYMENT*								CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE				
	October 1988		September 1988		October 1987		Numerical Change From Previous:		October	September	October	Numerical Change From Previous:	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Month	Year	1988	1988	1987	Month	Year
United States**	6,182	5.0	6,368	5.2	6,845	5.7	(186)	(663)	122,432	121,842	120,744	590	1,688
New Hampshire	14,080	2.3	14,550	2.4	12,610	2.1	(470)	1,470	611,230	607,030	601,850	4,200	9,380
Berlin LMA	430	1.6	480	1.8	580	2.2	(50)	(150)	26,810	26,450	26,420	360	390
Claremont LMA	610	1.5	620	1.5	500	1.2	(10)	110	41,250	40,510	40,090	740	1,160
Concord LMA	1,060	1.9	1,120	2.1	880	1.6	(60)	180	55,050	54,540	54,080	510	970
Keene LMA	620	1.4	670	1.6	580	1.4	(50)	40	43,680	43,220	42,320	460	1,360
Laconia LMA	950	1.7	870	1.6	800	1.5	80	150	54,680	54,730	53,120	(50)	1,560
Littleton LMA	410	2.2	320	1.7	400	2.1	90	10	19,000	19,070	18,760	(70)	240
Manchester MSA	1,740	2.0	1,890	2.2	1,390	1.6	(150)	350	86,040	84,960	86,590	1,080	(550)
Nashua PMSA	3,120	3.1	3,210	3.2	2,340	2.3	(90)	780	100,980	100,240	99,580	740	1,400
NH portion Lawrence-Haverhill, Ma PMSA***	2,340	4.6	2,470	4.9	2,370	4.6	(130)	(30)	50,800	50,820	51,550	220	480
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester NH+ Me MSA	2,110	1.5	2,070	1.5	2,070	1.5	40	40	137,680	137,570	133,650	110	4,030
Unattached Estimating Area****	610	2.9	700	3.4	640	3.2	(90)	(30)	20,690	20,470	20,210	220	480
NH portion Lowell Ma PMSA	310	5.8	320	6.0	300	5.5	(10)	10	5,370	5,310	5,430	60	(60)
Counties													
Belknap	490	1.7	400	1.4	450	1.6	90	40	28,270	28,230	27,520	40	750
Carroll	260	1.4	340	1.8	260	1.4	(80)	0	19,030	18,950	18,590	80	440
Cheshire	570	1.5	620	1.6	530	1.4	(50)	40	38,980	38,580	37,770	400	1,210
Coos	460	2.2	380	1.8	630	3.0	80	(170)	21,110	20,820	20,890	290	220
Grafton	740	1.8	710	1.7	570	1.4	30	170	42,170	41,980	41,120	190	1,050
Hillsborough	4,990	2.7	5,280	2.8	3,970	2.1	(290)	1,020	188,010	186,200	186,860	1,810	1,150
Merrimack	1,130	1.7	1,240	1.9	1,000	1.6	(110)	130	65,440	64,940	64,420	500	1,020
Rockingham	4,080	3.2	4,150	3.3	3,830	3.1	(70)	250	126,070	125,630	124,840	440	1,230
Strafford	1,030	1.7	1,090	1.8	1,100	1.9	(60)	(70)	61,000	60,930	59,290	70	1,710
Sullivan	330	1.6	340	1.6	270	1.3	(10)	60	21,150	20,770	20,550	380	600

* *Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 Step Method" handbook adjusted to the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates.*

** *In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.*

*** *New Hampshire Portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and twelve small towns.*

**** *Includes twenty towns previously in either Dover, Portsmouth, Manchester or Nashua LMA's.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT AS OF THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH

	Number of Workers			Numerical Change * From Previous:	
	October 1988	September 1988	October 1987	Month	Year
Labor Force Data **					
1. CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	611,230	607,030	601,850	4,200	9,380
2. UNEMPLOYMENT	14,080	14,550	12,610	(470)	1,470
PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE	2.3	2.4	2.1	----	----
3. EMPLOYMENT TOTAL	597,150	592,480	589,240	4,670	7,910
4. PERSONS INVOLVED IN LABOR DISPUTES	0	0	0	0	0
Employment by Industry ***					
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT	547,000	546,500	523,400	500	23,600
MANUFACTURING	122,550	122,050	120,050	500	2,500
Durable Goods	86,250	85,650	84,100	600	2,150
Lumber and wood products	6,450	6,500	6,450	(50)	0
Furniture and fixtures	1,600	1,600	1,550	0	50
Stone and clay products	3,850	3,800	3,700	50	150
Primary metal products	4,550	4,350	4,450	200	100
Fabricated metal products	7,400	7,350	6,700	50	700
Machinery (except electrical)	26,450	26,200	26,150	250	300
Electrical products	24,600	24,500	23,550	100	1,050
Miscellaneous products	1,950	1,950	2,050	0	(100)
Other durable goods	9,400	9,400	9,500	0	(100)
Nondurable Goods	36,300	36,400	35,950	(100)	350
Food and kindred products	3,000	3,000	2,800	0	200
Textile mill products	3,700	3,700	3,800	0	(100)
Apparel	1,750	1,800	2,000	(50)	(250)
Paper and allied products	5,600	5,550	5,650	50	(50)
Printing, publishing, and allied	8,800	8,850	8,350	(50)	450
Leather and leather products	3,350	3,450	3,650	(100)	(300)
Other nondurable goods	10,100	10,050	9,700	50	400
NONMANUFACTURING	424,450	424,450	403,350	0	21,100
Construction (including mining)	42,000	43,100	40,500	(1,100)	1,500
Transportation, communication, and utilities	17,650	17,800	17,150	(150)	500
Trade	137,900	136,300	131,450	1,600	6,450
Finance, insurance, and real estate	33,700	33,800	32,550	(100)	1,150
Service industry and other	122,700	123,950	115,900	(1,250)	6,800
Government	70,500	69,500	65,800	1,000	4,700
Federal	8,800	8,700	8,600	100	200
State	19,100	18,950	17,600	150	1,500
Local	42,600	41,850	39,600	750	3,000
Persons involved in labor disputes (not included in Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Total above)	0	0	0	0	0

** Numbers in parentheses indicate negative numbers*

*** By place of residence*

**** By place of establishment*

MSA LABOR FORCE, TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT, AND NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT AS OF THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH

	Manchester MSA					Nashua PMSA					Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA				
	Number of Workers			Numerical Change***		Number of Workers			Numerical Change***		Number of Workers			Numerical Change***	
	October 1988	September 1988	October 1987	From Previous: Month	Year	October 1988	September 1988	October 1987	From Previous: Month	Year	October 1988	September 1988	October 1987	From Previous: Month	Year
Labor Force Data*															
1. Civilian Labor Force	86,040	84,960	86,590	1,080	(550)	100,980	100,240	99,580	740	1,400	137,680	137,570	133,650	110	4,030
2. Unemployment	1,740	1,890	1,390	(150)	350	3,120	3,210	2,340	(90)	780	2,110	2,070	2,070	40	40
Percentage of Labor Force	2.0	2.2	1.6	----	----	3.1	3.2	2.3	----	----	1.5	1.5	1.5	----	----
3. Employment Total	84,300	83,070	85,200	1,230	(900)	97,860	97,030	97,240	830	620	135,570	135,500	131,580	70	3,990
4. Persons Involved in Labor Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Employment by Industry**															
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT	88,000	87,400	86,650	600	1,350	96,200	96,200	94,700	0	1,500	117,900	118,050	111,500	(150)	6,400
MANUFACTURING	11,700	11,750	12,100	(50)	(400)	37,100	37,100	37,300	0	(200)	21,050	21,100	20,600	(50)	450
Durable Goods	7,100	7,150	7,450	(50)	(350)	31,000	31,000	31,050	0	(50)	13,450	13,500	13,000	(50)	450
Machinery and electrical products	4,000	4,000	4,200	0	(200)	23,500	23,500	23,450	0	50					
Other durable goods	3,100	3,150	3,250	(50)	(150)	7,500	7,500	7,600	0	(100)					
Nondurable Goods	4,600	4,600	4,650	0	(50)	6,100	6,100	6,250	0	(150)	7,600	7,600	7,600	0	0
Textile mill products	1,100	1,100	1,300	0	(200)										
Other nondurable goods	3,500	3,500	3,350	0	150										
NONMANUFACTURING	76,300	75,650	74,550	650	1,750	59,100	59,100	57,400	0	1,700	96,850	96,950	90,900	(100)	5,950
Construction (including mining)	6,650	6,650	6,450	0	200	5,650	5,900	5,450	(250)	200	6,650	6,850	6,500	(200)	150
Transportation, communication, and utilities	5,300	5,100	5,100	200	200	2,150	2,150	2,050	0	100	3,250	3,350	2,950	(100)	300
Trade	24,400	24,300	24,100	100	300	21,200	21,350	21,200	(150)	0	31,650	31,900	28,850	(250)	2,800
Finance, insurance, and real estate	8,550	8,400	8,750	150	(200)	4,100	4,050	4,000	50	100	6,800	6,800	6,650	0	150
Service industry & other	22,150	22,000	21,550	150	600	18,850	18,600	17,950	250	900	22,350	23,050	20,500	(700)	1,850
Government	9,250	9,200	8,600	50	650	7,150	7,050	6,750	100	400	26,150	25,000	25,450	1,150	700
Federal	2,700	2,700	2,700	0	0	950	950	900	0	50	10,500	10,500	10,450	0	50
State	1,050	1,100	850	(50)	200	250	250	200	0	50	5,200	4,150	5,500	1,050	(300)
Local	5,500	5,400	5,050	100	450	5,950	5,850	5,650	100	300	10,450	10,350	9,500	100	950
Persons involved in labor disputes (not included in Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment above)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

** By place of residence*
*** By place of establishment*
**** Numbers in parentheses indicate negative numbers*

Manchester MSA – includes the city of Manchester and the towns of Allenstown, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Goffstown, and Hooksett.
Nashua PMSA – includes the city of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton.
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA – includes the New Hampshire cities of Dover, Portsmouth, Rochester, and Somersworth; the New Hampshire towns of Barrington, Durham, Exeter, Farmington, Greenland, Hampton, Lee, Madbury, Milton, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, North Hampton, Rollinsford, Rye, and Stratham; and the Maine towns of Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, North Berwick, Ogunquit, South Berwick, Wells, and York.

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct 1988	Sep 1988	Oct 1987	Oct 1988	Sep 1988	Oct 1987	Oct 1988	Sep 1988	Oct 1987
All Manufacturing	$393.82	$392.75	$387.45	39.7	40.2	41.0	$9.92	$9.77	$9.45
Durable goods	401.98	399.80	394.01	39.8	40.1	41.0	10.10	9.97	9.61
Lumber and wood products	341.48	338.77	323.93	37.9	39.3	39.6	9.01	8.62	8.18
Furniture and fixtures	321.39	310.02	326.60	42.4	39.9	42.4	7.58	7.77	7.75
Stone and clay products	395.68	399.04	383.74	42.5	43.0	42.1	9.31	9.28	8.64
Primary metal products	444.06	445.30	416.24	44.9	45.3	43.0	9.89	9.83	9.68
Fabricated metal products	429.71	422.84	393.81	42.8	42.2	42.3	10.04	10.02	9.31
Machinery (except electrical)	439.38	437.84	430.45	42.7	42.8	43.7	10.29	10.23	9.85
Electrical products	388.69	385.93	402.98	35.4	35.9	38.6	10.98	10.75	10.44
Miscellaneous products	364.10	343.92	330.84	38.9	40.7	41.2	9.36	8.45	8.03
Other durable goods	389.06	390.25	365.83	39.7	39.7	39.9	9.80	9.83	9.67
Nondurable goods	374.30	378.80	371.69	39.4	40.6	40.8	9.50	9.33	9.11
Food and kindred products	480.57	448.94	483.36	38.6	40.3	42.4	12.45	11.14	11.40
Textile mill products	330.91	342.38	322.70	39.3	41.4	40.9	8.42	8.27	7.89
Apparel	257.02	258.61	242.48	36.2	38.2	36.3	7.10	6.77	6.68
Paper and allied products	431.60	490.70	546.18	40.0	46.6	50.2	10.79	10.53	10.88
Printing, publishing, and allied	402.43	381.65	372.66	39.3	37.9	38.7	10.24	10.07	9.63
Leather and leather products	218.42	216.80	192.47	35.4	34.8	33.3	6.17	6.23	5.78
Footwear	218.77	217.70	200.57	35.4	35.0	34.7	6.18	6.22	5.78
Other nondurable goods	394.67	401.28	377.30	41.5	41.8	41.1	9.51	9.60	9.18

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 41.6%

Total Production Workers: 83,050

Firms Reporting: 293

Manchester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct 1988	Sep 1988	Oct 1987	Oct 1988	Sep 1988	Oct 1987	Oct 1988	Sep 1988	Oct 1987
All Manufacturing	$395.07	$394.21	$385.52	39.0	39.5	40.2	$10.13	$9.98	$9.59
Durable goods	396.98	399.36	399.84	37.7	38.4	39.2	10.53	10.40	10.20
Machinery and electrical products	418.94	425.82	403.51	39.3	40.4	39.1	10.66	10.54	10.32
Other durable goods	369.14	365.16	395.36	35.7	35.8	39.3	10.34	10.20	10.06
Nondurable goods	392.35	384.92	363.30	41.3	41.3	42.0	9.50	9.32	8.65
Textiles and apparel	351.37	351.53	309.26	41.0	41.7	39.7	8.57	8.43	7.79
Other nondurable goods	405.57	396.34	384.38	41.3	41.2	42.9	9.82	9.62	8.96

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 50.6%

Total Production Workers: 8,950

Firms Reporting: 34

Nashua PMSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct 1988	Sep 1988	Oct 1987	Oct 1988	Sep 1988	Oct 1987	Oct 1988	Sep 1988	Oct 1987
All Manufacturing	$497.70	$484.01	$473.21	39.5	40.2	40.9	$12.60	$12.04	$11.57
Durable goods	509.04	495.72	482.98	40.4	40.8	41.6	12.60	12.15	11.61
Machinery and electrical products	546.07	525.63	514.18	40.3	39.7	41.2	13.55	13.24	12.48
Other durable goods	432.64	430.57	408.20	40.7	43.1	42.3	10.63	9.99	9.65
Nondurable goods	451.80	439.26	437.75	35.8	37.9	38.5	12.62	11.59	11.37

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 44.6%

Total Production Workers 19,600

Firms Reporting: 51

Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct 1988	Sep 1988	Oct 1987	Oct 1988	Sep 1988	Oct 1987	Oct 1988	Sep 1988	Oct 1987
All Manufacturing	$383.78	$374.03	$364.81	41.4	40.7	40.4	$9.27	$9.19	$9.03
Durable goods	420.46	410.75	387.77	42.3	41.7	40.1	9.94	9.85	9.67
Nondurable goods	322.39	312.39	327.20	39.9	39.0	40.9	8.08	8.01	8.00

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 36.2%

Total Production Workers: 15,300

Firms Reporting: 33

New Hampshire Labor Supply and Demand

In October of 1988 there were 9,165 active applicants in all local offices, which was a 42.5 percent increase from the same month a year ago (6,428). The number of job openings received for October (1,831) decreased from the number of job openings received a year earlier (2,254). Job openings received for benchwork occupations declined by 55 percent between October 1987 and October 1988, while machine trades showed a decrease of 33 percent. A decrease in machine trades and benchwork job openings is an earlier indicator of economic slowdown than an increase in the number of active applicants in those categories, since hiring would normally slow down before workers were let go. Machine tool orders this spring were strongly ahead of orders for a year earlier (+72 percent according to reports) This increase, probably reflecting both the general strength of the national economy as well as an export-spurring, weakening dollar, does not place the machine tools situation in proper perspective. According to a recent study, many American machine tool companies have not adapted to newer computer controlled machines. It further contends that American machine tool producers will lose their competitive edge if they do not computerize. Contrary to some thinking, new changes will add jobs and failure .o adapt could mean the loss of all jobs for a business. The same study states that the United States has not moved quickly enough nor had the teamwork to put new technological changes into the marketplace at the pace it must in order to successfully compete with other countries.

The greatest decreases in the number of active applicants between September and October occurred in clerical (-102; 1,930 in September to 1,828 in October), services (-54; 1,384 in September to 1,330 in October), and benchwork (-22; 621 in September to 599 in October). Clerical active applicants listed by offices that had the biggest declines include Concord (-35), Portsmouth (-29), and Laconia (-26). A year ago, however, each of these offices had about 100 fewer active applicants than they did in October. Services applicants decreased (-54) from the previous month with Concord again having the largest decrease (-30), followed by Portsmouth (-25) and Nashua (-20). The only sizeable increase in the number of active applicants was reported in Littleton (+21) and Conway (+13) as the foliage season drew to an end and area resort businesses take a breather before the start of the winter recreation season. Benchwork occupations had a moderate decline of 22 active applicants from the previous month, although the October level was still over 100 higher than in October last year. Nearly all other occupational groups had the same or nearly the number of active applicants as the previous month except structural active applicants who showed an increase of 86 (from 1,306 in September to 1,392 in October) while machine trades increased by 34 (from 580 in September to 614 in October).

Job openings for October decreased 172 from September (1,958 in September to 1,786 in October) with the biggest drop in job openings coming in Structural occupations (-79), services (-66), benchwork (-26), and machine trades (-20). Structural job openings in September 1988 stood at 353 compared to 386 in October 1987, a month later into the building season. Services job openings have been more consistent during this time period, decreasing only 66 from the previous year's 397. Benchwork job openings fell (-115) from the previous year (208 compared to 93 currently), while machine trades went from 201 job openings in October 1987 to 135 in October 1988.

The ratio of active applicants to job openings received has changed considerably, with the ratio moving from less than three active applicants per job opening in October 1987 to five applicants per job opening in October 1988. At the top of the list, ranked by the number of active applicants compared to the number of job openings received by local offices, is an applicant in a professional, technical or managerial occupation who would be faced with one job opening for ten professional applicants. Making the match more difficult in this case is the range of experience, specialization, and job salary that must be dealt with. Benchwork active applicants had a ratio of six applicants per job opening in October 1988 compared to 2.3 to one in October 1987. Structural occupations recorded a ratio of 5 applicants per opening in October 1988 and 2.3 openings per applicant in October 1987.

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ACTIVE APPLICANTS BY OCCUPATION, OCTOBER 1988

Area	Professional, Technical, & Managerial	Clerical	Sales	Services	Farm	Processing	Machine Trades	Benchwork	Structural Work	Freight & Transportation	Packaging & Material Handling	Miscellaneous	Total
New Hampshire	1,911	1,828	505	1,330	89	93	614	599	1,392	316	424	64	9,165
Berlin	29	83	35	73	6	4	32	9	63	26	13	2	375
Claremont	60	72	19	63	2	4	37	25	53	15	36	3	389
Concord	281	217	43	118	18	7	87	63	160	35	35	9	1,073
Conway	30	36	6	30	0	0	16	2	28	6	3	0	157
Dover	206	280	56	152	11	21	90	94	197	29	31	5	1,172
Keene	133	127	63	112	8	6	56	56	98	27	41	3	730
Laconia	100	122	30	101	9	3	47	31	119	27	22	1	612
Lebanon	84	44	15	26	4	0	14	11	34	5	7	2	246
Littleton	60	100	21	101	6	3	35	32	69	12	7	1	447
Manchester	212	262	82	229	6	11	77	94	232	54	81	23	1,363
Nashua	342	243	67	151	12	21	66	126	144	37	96	9	1,314
Portsmouth	277	182	39	142	6	10	38	31	161	35	44	2	967
Salem	97	60	29	32	1	3	19	25	34	8	8	4	320

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table A98

JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED BY OCCUPATION, OCTOBER 1988

Area	Professional, Technical, & Managerial	Clerical	Sales	Services	Farm	Processing	Machine Trades	Benchwork	Structural Work	Motor Freight & Transportation	Packaging & Material Handling	Miscellaneous	Total
New Hampshire	127	412	128	331	15	32	135	93	274	77	152	10	1,786
Berlin	4	16	11	17	1	1	7	5	24	1	53	0	140
Claremont	14	16	3	26	0	0	21	14	17	4	7	1	123
Concord	24	49	1	37	5	0	9	4	24	6	2	4	165
Conway	4	3	1	2	1	0	1	1	5	4	4	0	26
Dover	10	40	8	26	2	9	12	8	45	4	10	1	175
Keene	8	27	2	52	1	0	18	3	14	9	8	2	144
Laconia	8	29	6	38	0	5	16	6	17	6	7	0	140
Lebanon	4	13	3	6	0	0	3	5	13	7	4	1	59
Littleton	2	8	0	14	2	0	5	1	23	4	11	1	71
Manchester	8	157	31	52	0	11	9	17	29	11	17	0	342
Nashua	10	13	5	27	2	3	16	14	20	12	15	0	137
Portsmouth	7	20	9	23	0	1	13	6	38	6	9	0	132
Salem	6	21	48	10	0	2	3	8	5	3	5	0	111
All Others	18	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	21

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table 10

ACTIVE APPLICANTS BY SEX, AGE, MINORITY STATUS, AND VETERAN STATUS, OCTOBER 1988

Area	Male	Female	Eligible Claimants	Minority	Veterans	Age < 45	Age > 45	Total Active Applicants	Unfilled Openings: Total	Unfilled Openings: 30 Days +
New Hampshire	5,031	4,134	2,920	333	1,843	7,401	1,764	9,165	2,483	1,592
Berlin	181	194	82	5	45	309	66	375	190	138
Claremont	226	163	52	7	74	314	75	389	121	52
Concord	608	465	420	20	215	870	203	1,073	153	78
Conway	96	61	45	0	34	129	28	157	77	60
Dover	615	557	347	27	234	960	212	1,172	236	164
Keene	417	313	178	8	173	576	154	730	227	139
Laconia	354	258	172	7	88	508	104	612	221	139
Lebanon	156	90	61	8	60	194	52	246	80	49
Littleton	215	232	104	3	53	350	97	447	71	43
Manchester	725	638	513	74	261	1,108	255	1,363	234	101
Nashua	719	595	563	120	254	1,055	259	1,314	146	82
Portsmouth	554	413	232	41	284	794	173	967	292	229
Salem	165	155	151	13	68	234	86	320	213	117
All Others									222	201

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table A96

JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED BY INDUSTRY, OCTOBER 1988

Area	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Construction & Mining	Manufacturing	Transportation, Communication & Utilities	Trade	Finance Insurance, Real Estate	Services	Public Administration	Total	Government Openings in Columns 1-8*
New Hampshire	15	220	418	40	537	51	442	63	1,786	145
Berlin	1	21	59	2	32	3	21	1	140	1
Claremont	1	17	49	1	13	1	40	1	123	9
Concord	1	17	33	2	52	8	21	31	165	39
Conway	0	6	1	0	10	0	9	0	26	0
Dover	4	20	60	0	29	4	54	4	175	49
Keene	1	14	19	5	66	5	33	1	144	5
Laconia	4	14	32	4	56	5	24	1	140	3
Lebanon	1	10	9	3	17	4	12	3	59	8
Littleton	1	24	8	1	16	0	21	0	71	0
Manchester	0	28	49	7	129	6	117	6	342	7
Nashua	1	13	48	12	37	4	21	1	137	0
Portsmouth	0	29	30	3	34	9	25	2	132	10
Salem	0	6	16	0	43	2	41	3	111	2
All Others	0	1	5	0	3	0	3	9	21	12

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table 10

* *This column includes Job Openings received from government-owned-and-operated employers in all types of industries. It consists of numbers that are included in the first eight columns.*

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, OCTOBER 1988

	1988	1987	1986	1985
1982-84=100				
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)				
October Index	120.2	115.3	110.3	108.7
Percent Change From Previous October	4.2	4.5	1.5	3.2
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)				
October Index	118.9	114.1	109.1	107.9
Percent Change From Previous October	4.2	4.6	1.1	3.0
1967=100				
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)				
October Index	360.1	345.3	330.5	325.5
Percent Change From Previous October	4.3	4.5	1.5	3.2
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)				
October Index	354.2	340.0	325.0	321.3
Percent Change From Previous October	4.2	4.6	1.2	2.9

***Note:** This table was introduced in the August issue. In prior issues we had shown the calendar year averages for each of the preceding three years along with the current month's indicies. This new table shows the indicies for the current month and those for the same month in each of the three previous years. This enables you to compare changes in the CPI indicies over four twelve-month periods.*

OCTOBER CPI INDEXES BY CATEGORY

(1982-84=100, except where otherwise noted)

Categories	CPI-U October Index	Unadjusted Percent Change from: October1987	September 1988	CPI-W October Index
All Items	120.2	4.2	0.3	118.9
All Items (1967=100)	360.1	4.3	0.3	354.2
Food and Beverages	120.3	5.2	0.2	120.0
Housing	119.9	3.8	0.0	118.2
Apparel and Upkeep	120.7	4.6	2.5	120.1
Transportation	110.0	2.7	0.3	109.8
Medical Care	141.2	6.7	0.6	141.7
Entertainment	121.8	4.2	0.4	121.2
Other Goods and Services	140.6	6.8	0.4	139.9

Source: United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Consumer Price Index for October 1988

The unadjusted CPI-U for October, at 120.2, rose 0.3% above September's index; this increase was less than or equal to the monthly increases sustained in 1988 and more moderate than the 0.7% increase from August to September. The change since October 1987 was 4.2%; this is the highest rate of change recorded this year, equalling the September year-to-year increment. The annual average for 1988 is likely to be higher than last year's average of 3.7%, indicating slow steady price inflation, especially since the midsummer drought pushed up food prices.

In October increases in the Food and Beverage index were moderated by downturns in the Fruits and Vegetables component (-1.1% from September) and the Meats, Poultry, Fish and Eggs component (-0.5% from September). Dairy Products and Fats and Oils increased 0.9% and 1.0% respectively from the previous month.

The Housing index showed no increase this past month. Fuel costs were down 2.4% from September and increased only 1.8% over the past year.

The Apparel and Upkeep index showed a large month-to-month increase for the second consecutive month (+2.5% in October, +4.6% in September). This increase was led by Footwear (+3.3%) and Women's and Girls' Apparel (+3.2%). Higher prices on fall and winter merchandise were a primary factor in this increase.

The Transportation index showed mixed effects of several factors. Gasoline prices fell 1.8% from a month ago (and 1.8% from the previous year also). Automobile insurance and automobile finance charges increased sharply to push up the New Car price index and the Other Private Transportation Services index (+0.8% and +1.6% respectively).

The Medical Care index climbed another 0.6% since September to 141.2. Medical Care Commodities, which includes prescription and nonprescription drugs and medical supplies, showed a 0.8% increase over the month.

The Entertainment index rose 0.4% largely because fees for participant sports and admissions to musical and sporting events increased.

Other Goods and Services (up 0.4% since September) showed the greatest price increase in Toilet Goods and Personal Care Appliances (+0.9% over the month), perhaps priced in anticipation of holiday gift-buying.

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WEEKLY CLAIMS FILED DURING OCTOBER
CLASSIFIED BY LOCAL OFFICE

Area	U. C. Unemployment Compensation		State Workers (Only)		U. C. Local Government		Ex-Military Servicemen (UCX Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No U.I.	
	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims
All Offices	2,159	5,908	18	22	5	13	21	18	14	15
Berlin	150	207	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Claremont	66	135	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Concord	188	556	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Conway	58	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dover	227	587	1	1	1	0	5	3	7	4
Keene	99	238	2	7	0	7	1	2	0	0
Laconia	141	347	2	4	1	1	2	0	0	0
Lebanon	44	120	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	2
Littleton	183	197	8	2	1	2	0	0	1	1
Manchester	325	1,165	1	0	1	0	5	2	0	1
Nashua	283	939	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	3
Portsmouth	142	386	1	0	0	1	3	2	1	2
Salem	91	228	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Liable Interstate	162	704	0	5	0	0	0	5	3	2

The average payment for a week of total unemployment: $127.85

The Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance at the End of the Month: $181,306,253.12

Net contributions received during the month: $94,759.32

Net benefits paid during the month: $788,629.60

Interest Received: $0.00